
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 64

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMISSION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STATUTES.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes several changes to the labor statutes. It:

1. changes and expands certain Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) job placement program reporting requirements,
2. repeals the requirement that the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) update a self-sufficiency measurement every three years,
3. changes how employment information is exchanged between the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of Social Services (DSS),
4. requires DOL to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (HIX) for employment information,
5. eliminates the film industry workforce training program, and
6. makes conforming and technical changes (§§ 3,5, and 6).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 1 & 4 — REPORT CARD ON EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAMS

The bill requires CETC to submit a new report to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and legislature every year and changes the due date for an existing CETC annual report is due.

New Report

The bill requires CETC to annually submit a report card for each employment placement program included in CETC's annual inventory, which the labor commissioner maintains. The report card must identify, for each program, the:

1. cost,
2. number of program participants,
3. number of participants completing the program, and
4. the employment placement rates at 13- and 26-week intervals for those completing the program or a statement saying why such measure is not relevant.

CETC must submit the report to OPM and the Education, Higher Education and Workforce Advancement, and Labor committees by October 1, 2014, and every year thereafter.

Existing Report

The bill changes, from June 1 to January 31, the date by which that CETC must submit (1) an annual plan for coordinating all state employment and training programs and (2) recommendations for policies and procedures to improve program coordination. The plan and recommendations are submitted to the governor for approval.

The January 31 date coincides with an existing statutory deadline for CETC to submit a progress report on its duties, responsibilities, and goals to the governor and the Appropriations, Education, Labor, and Human Services committees.

§ 2 — REPEAL OF SUFFICIENCY MEASUREMENT UPDATE

The bill repeals the requirement that OWC triennially update a self-sufficiency measurement originally developed by a private vendor under contract with OPM in 1999. It also repeals the requirement that the updated measurement be distributed to all state agencies that counsel people seeking education, training, or employment. The measurement looks at what is a sufficient income for a person,

depending on where he or she lives in the state and the size of the family he or she supports.

§ 7 — NEW EMPLOYEES INFORMATION

The bill replaces a biweekly exchange of information between DSS and DOL to check whether any people receiving public assistance have become employees, with the requirement that DOL execute memoranda of understanding with DSS and HIX to accomplish a similar exchange of information.

The bill requires DOL to execute MOUs with (1) DSS and (2) HIX to establish procedures to furnish wage and claim information from the DOL records to assist DSS and HIX in determining of eligibility for public assistance under:

1. the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF),
2. Medicaid,
3. food stamps,
4. supplemental security income, and
5. other state supplement and state-administered general assistance programs.

The MOUs must contain appropriate confidentiality safeguards regarding the wage and claim information. Presumably, this means safeguards on information such as Social Security numbers.

Once the MOUs are in place, DOL must furnish the wage and claim information to DSS and any of its agents that perform services associated with HIX, and HIX or any of its agents. It is not clear what type of claim information DOL has to share with DSS or HIX.

Under current law, DSS must prepare a biweekly list of people who are receiving public assistance (TANF, Medicaid, supplemental nutrition assistance, state supplement and state-administered general assistance programs) and send the list to DOL. DOL must promptly

identify any new employee on the DSS list and transmit to DSS the name, address, and Social Security number of each new employee along with the name, address, and state and federal tax registration or identification numbers of the employer.

By law, DSS must reimburse DOL for the costs of providing this information and for maintaining a toll-free facsimile number for employers required to report new employee information. The bill also requires HIX to reimburse DOL for these costs. It also requires the HIX chief executive officer to enter into a purchase of service agreement with DOL to establish administrative procedures. By law, the DSS commissioner must already do the same.

§ 8 — FILM INDUSTRY WORKFORCE TRAINING

The bill repeals the law requiring OWC to establish a film industry workforce training program. It also repeals the requirement for an annual status report on the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)